South Asian Summit 2015
Advocacy Day
April 13, 2015
Washington, DC

Icebreaker

- Name
- Where you are from
- Why you are participating in Advocacy Day

Welcome to Advocacy Day

- Opportunity to meet with federal legislative offices and raise issues affecting the community
- Hands-on training on how to engage in advocacy
- Network with community members and advocates

Why YOU Should Participate in Advocacy Day?

- Inform Congress of the impact of executive action and racial profiling on South Asian Americans
- Influence the dialogue on these important issues
- Learn about immigration and racial profiling priorities of a particular member of Congress

What legislative offices will learn from Advocacy Day?

- The diversity and needs of South Asian community
- The relevance of executive action and impact of racial profiling on the South Asian community
- The strong, organized presence of South Asian community

New to Advocacy? Don't Worry!

- Learn about issues today
- Advocacy training with tips
- Remember to focus on the impact of the issues for South Asians
- You know your community and experiences
- Your legislators work for you!

What We Will Discuss Today

- Logistical Information
- Agenda for Advocacy Day
- Blueprint for Speaking with Legislative Staff

Schedule for April 13th Advocacy Day

- **Morning Session** (*Capitol Visitor Center SVC 208 -209*)
  - Congressional Briefing by Community representatives
  - Community Briefing by Government representatives
- **Afternoon Session** *(Capitol Hill)*
  - Delegation Meetings with Staffers from Congressional Offices

Agenda for Advocacy Day

- 9:30am – 10:30 am Congressional Briefing on Immigration, Racial Profiling, and Hate Violence
- 11:00am – 12:00pm Briefing by Government
- 12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch - Delegation Organizing
- 2pm – 4pm Individual Visits with Legislators and/or Staff

Logistics: People We Meet With

- Meetings have been organized based on those with the highest South Asian populations in their districts and their support for our issues
- Meetings occur with the appropriate staffer for the Member of Congress

Logistics: Roles During the Meeting

- Each meeting will have a team leader, designated speakers, & a note taker
- Team Leader: Thanks the staffer, starts off discussion & leads the meeting, & closes the meeting & provides materials to the staffer
- Designated Speakers: Outline issues assigned to them in the talking points
- Note taker: Takes notes during the meeting & provides these notes to SAALT staff.

Focus 1: Executive Action

- Over 40% of the 450,000 undocumented Indians in the United States and countless more South Asians are eligible for programs under executive action
- DACA and DAPA are important choices for South Asians in the United States
- DACA and DAPA cannot be eliminated or weakened
- Executive Action is the right first step toward Comprehensive Immigration Reform and we need to ensure that it moves forward without obstruction

Focus 2: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- According to an America's Voice Poll, more than ¾ of Americans support a path to citizenship or legal status
- Currently, some states have laws that criminalize undocumented immigrants while other have laws supporting undocumented immigrants
- Without Comprehensive Immigration Reform, we will continue to have divided rather than unified policies to protect immigrants

Focus 3: Racial Profiling

- Racial profiling by law enforcement has proven time and again to be ineffective.
- The South Asian community has already suffered many years of racial profiling, particularly post-9/11.
- The newly revised DOJ Guidance has three exemptions for national security, border security, and state and local law enforcement that negatively affect South Asians

Blueprint for a Legislative Meeting

Step 1: Introduce yourselves

Step 2: Introduce SA community including contributions and personal experience

Step 3: Raise issues of concern regarding immigration and racial profiling

- Focus for Immigration:
  - Executive Action
  - Comprehensive Immigration Reform

  Focus for Racial Profiling
  - DOJ Guidance
  - End Racial Profiling Act

Blueprint for a Legislative Meeting

Step 4: Engage in a dialogue about legislator's priorities and perspectives on immigration and racial profiling & thoughts on these issues

Step 5: Return to your overarching messages

Step 6: Offer resources

Step 7: Find out main point of contact for office

Step 8: Follow-up!

Step 1: Who You Are & Why You Are There

- Thank them for meeting
- Introduce yourself & where you are from
- Mention participation in an Advocacy Day for the South Asian community
- Explain reasons for meeting:
  - Tell them about SA community
  - Raise issues of concern for SA community regarding immigration and racial profiling
  - Ask them to support executive action and Comprehensive Immigration Reform as well as the End Racial Profiling Act
  - Learn their immigration and racial profiling priorities

Step 2: Introduce the South Asian Community Generally

- South Asians come from:
  - The Subcontinent: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives
  - The Diaspora: Caribbean, England, Africa, Middle East, Canada
- Over 3.4 million South Asians live in the United States, approximately ¾ are foreign-born.
- South Asians hold a range of immigration statuses: undocumented immigrants, dependent & temporary workers on various visas, refugees & asylees, lawful permanent residents, & U.S. citizens.

Step 2: Introduce the South Asian Community in terms of Immigration

- South Asians often framed as benefiting exclusively from policies related to skilled workers or science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) graduates – this is not true.
- South Asians span a range of skill sets and immigration statuses often in the same family.
- There are currently 450,000 undocumented Indians in the United States and countless more South Asians
- *Message:* South Asians are a diverse group of people that cross various statuses and professions. There are a significant number of undocumented immigrants in our community .

Step 2: Introduce the South Asian Community in terms of Immigration

South Asian Americans are affected by Executive Action

- The first successful rule under the President's executive action expanding work authorization for some H-4 dependent spouses benefitted many South Asians.
  - In 2013, over 75% of those who received H-4 status were from South Asian countries
- It is good that Secure Communities has been replaced with the Priority Enforcement Program, ending mandatory detentions
  - Under Secure Communities, South Asians were likely to be stopped and have their status checked at disproportionate frequency

Step 3: Raise Issues of Concern & Ask

Focus 1: Executive Action

- **There have been recent attempts in Congress to derail DACA and DAPA**
  - **The first being the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act earlier this year**
  - **The second being the recent Senate Budget Resolution**
  - **Versions of these bills attempted to deny DACA and DAPA recipients eligibility for the Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicare, and Social Security and reinstate Secure Communities**

<u>Step 3:</u> Raise Issues of Concern & Ask
Focus 1: Executive Action

- *<u>Ask:</u>* Will you continue to support DACA and DAPA and help ensure sure that legislation weakening or eliminating executive action is defeated and does not continue to surface?
- *<u>Message:</u>* Executive Action is the right first step toward Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Step 3: Raise Issues of Concern & Ask
Focus 2: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- Currently, some states have laws that criminalize undocumented immigrants while other have laws supporting undocumented immigrants
  - Laws that criminalize include S.B. 1070 in Arizona and the copycat laws in other states that racially profile and target immigrants for deportation
  - Laws that support provide driver's licensesnand access to education for undocumented immigrants
- Without Comprehensive Immigration Reform, we will continue to have a patchwork of immigration policies
- We support a bill that clears our inhumanely long visa backlogs and continues to raise the visa caps so that our family members can join us here

<u>Step 3:</u> Raise Issues of Concern & Ask
Focus 2: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- *<u>Ask:</u>* Will you support Comprehensive Immigration Reform?
- *<u>Message:</u>* Comprehensive Immigration Reform is the only viable long-term option
  - It will unify our immigration policies
  - It will protect all immigrants

Step 3: Raise Issues of Concern & Ask Focus 3: Racial Profiling

- Racial profiling by law enforcement has proven time and again to be ineffective. It also deters South Asians from reporting crimes, sharing information, or serving as witnesses.
- The South Asian community has already suffered many years of racial profiling, particularly post-9/11, which has furthered stereotypes about South Asians and pushed community members into the shadows.
- The newly revised DOJ Guidance has three exemptions for national security, border security, and state and local law enforcement that negatively affect South Asians

Step 3: Raise Issues of Concern & Ask
Focus 3: Racial Profiling

- *Ask:* Will you continue to highlight the problematic exemptions to the DOJ Guidance? Will you support the End Racial Profiling Act?
- *Message:* Racial profiling by law enforcement must end
  - We must improve relationships between law enforcement and South Asian communities
  - We need better data on hate violence targeting our communities

Step 4: Engage in a Dialogue

- Ask them what their immigration and racial profiling priorities are
- Ask them what their positions are on executive action, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and the End Racial Profiling Act
- If they can't give you a response, ask them when they will know and if you can follow-up to find out

Step 5: Return to Your Overarching Messages

- Executive Action must move forward without obstruction and we need Comprehensive Immigration Reform.
- The DOJ Guidance continues to have problematic loopholes and we must pass the End Racial Profiling Act.

Step 6: Offer Resources

- **Team Leader gives blue folder to staffer with:**
  - About SAALT
  - Demographic information on South Asian community
  - Factsheet on executive action
  - DACA stories
  - SAALT Press: (1) H-4 statement; and, (2) OpEd in NBC News (3) DOJ Guidance statement
  - Copy of "Under Suspicion, Under Attack"
  - SAALT business cards
- **Offer to provide additional follow-up materials that staffer might request such as**
  - Organizational materials for additional background
  - List of community organizations and leaders they can meet with

Step 7: Point of Contact

- Ask them if their district office staff works closely with the South Asian community

- Ask them whom you can be in touch with in their district office if you have further questions or issues to raise

Step 8: Follow-Up!

- Email the officer to thank them for meeting
- Send the staffer any information you said you would provide after the meeting
- Complete the report-back form and return to SAALT staff

Materials & Resources For You

- You will be provided with:
  - Advocacy Day Schedule
  - Delegation assignments
  - Delegation visit script
  - Backgrounder on the Member of Congress
  - Capitol Hill map & Visitor Center map

Tips for Delegation Meetings

- Arrive five to ten minutes early
- Attire: business / professional
- Disagreeing is fine, so long as we remain polite and professional
- It's ok to not know the answer – just tell them you will get back to them & return to your talking points

Question & Answer

Mock Meeting Exercise Instructions

- Step 1: Divided into small groups
  - One person will play the role of the legislator
  - Others will play the roles of constituents
- Step 2: Review your talking points and recommendations; determine who will cover which issues and include any pertinent community stories (5 minutes)
- Step 3: Practice introducing yourself and raising the issues (15 minutes)
- Step 4: Feedback (5 minutes)

Just Remember!

- Share your personal stories, experiences, and concerns
- Ask questions to your legislator
- Complete the report-back form
- Have fun!

Contact Information

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Please contact me:

- If something changes & you cannot attend
- If you have additional questions or concerns
- If you have any issues on Advocacy Day!